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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I believe key aspects of the government's case are wrong.

In my opinion Microsoft does not hold an "illegal" monopoly over desktop operating systems. That ignores the resurgent of Apple Macintosh and the emergence of powerful Unix-based competitors, like Linux. Consumers can purchase any operating system they want, but they choose Microsoft because it is a better product.

There is no evidence of consumer harm and none was provide in the trial and Microsoft, according to the law, is not a Monopoly. Instead we, the consumer, had a judge that made up laws as he pleased.

After reading into the definition of a Monopoly, this is my understanding what it is: A monopoly is a firm that's restricts output in order to raise profits and prices, which harm consumers. Microsoft stands accused of doing the exact opposite; it lowers its price to zero and tries to expand its market.

The more one knows about this industry, the more one will realize it was the disgruntled competitors bringing the charge that Microsoft is a monopoly.

All this, is a legal sideshow. Sun, IBM, AOL, and Oracle are touting it as the central issue, but they don't give a damn about the consumers. With Windows 2000/XP Microsoft is invading their turf on the corporate side with better products at lower prices. They want the government to make the software design decisions for Microsoft, knowing that will stop Microsoft from innovating. This will be bad for consumers, the economy and the national security if we fall behind in computer technology due to government meddling.

There is no possible way any action against Microsoft by the Justice Department and more importantly the unsettled states will help consumers. The competition and innovation in the computer and software industries are the most intense in the history of the world.

Overall, the message being sent by the trial is "If you are a dominant producer in your market, be careful how aggressively you compete. Be mindful that your rivals can haul you into court if your product is better than theirs".

To be perfectly clear, the DOJ and the Attorney Generals of the suing states do not represent my interest and the interest of millions of consumers who have and will continue to benefit from Microsoft products.

Sincerely from a concerned consumer,

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